

TT No.137: *Brian Buck* - Sunday 14th April 2019; **Hitchin Town Ladies** v Hitchin Belles Ladies; Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Women's League Division 2; Result: 0-0; Attendance: 130 approx.

With my wife deciding to allow me to watch football for the second Sunday in a row, because she wanted to visit a friend, I chose this game to watch. Hitchin usually play their games at Offley these days, but I suspect that because the pitch was in good condition and the fact that there was something on the game it persuaded the host club to allow them to play at Top Field instead.

That something was that the Belles needed a point to win the league. If they lost then Town could technically still win it. This was the view on the day, but earlier in the week it had been put about that Belles had already won it. In truth barring a miracle they had really! I'd seen the Belles play earlier in the season, but although they won that day, I had no idea that they were good enough to win the league. Town used to have the sister of their ex-striker Jonny McNamara playing for them and she was a prolific goal-scorer, but she has now left the club, for St Albans City, I think.

Today the teams seemed to largely cancel each other out. In the first half the match was fairly even, but Town had the better chances. At half time I had a long chat with Hitchin Town and Southern League chairman Terry Barratt, who told me that he's been offered and accepted the chance to extend his chairmanship of the Southern League. He then went home because he was getting cold. So was I, but I stayed! In the second half Belles saw the match out without panicking and celebrated wildly at the end when they got the point they needed. I think that this may have been my first ever 0-0 draw in Ladies football!